

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5357

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3872

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJ: CONTROVERSY ON POLICE ROLE IN SOWETO

ZULU RAMPAGE

REF: PRETORIA 3849 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH SOWETO REPRESENTATIVES AND
VISIT TO MZIMHLOPE MEN'S HOSTEL, SCENE OF AUGUST 25-26 SOWETO
VIOLENCE, KWAZULU CHIEF EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR, CHIEF GATSHA
BUTHELEZI, AT AUGUST 28 PRESS CONFERENCE, CHARGED POLICE
COLLUSION IN INSTIGATION AND SPREADING OF LAST ROUND OF
SOWETO VIOLENCE. BUTHELEZI SAID: "... SOME WHITE POLICEMEN/SOLDIERS IN
CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE URGED
THIS ARMED GROUP OF MEN TO 'BULALA ZONKE' (KILL ALL)... THE
POLICE EMERGED AS NOT ONLY THE INSTIGATORS OF THE HOSTEL-
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DWELLERS BUT ALSO OF HAVING AIDED AND ABETTED THEM WHEN THE

RAMPAGING TOOK PLACE... THERE ARE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE POLICE SAID TO PEOPLE WHO RAN TO THEM FOR PROTECTION THAT THEY MUST HAVE A TASTE OF THEIR BLACK POWER." BUTHELIZI CALLED ON SOWETO RESIDENTS TO PREPARE SWORN AFFIDAVITS WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY BE TURNED OVER TO THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, OR ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR THE TRANSVAAL. THE ZULU CHIEF ADDED THAT " THE FLIPPANT MANNER WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO HAVE TREATED THIS WHOLE TRAGEDY SEEMS TO HAVE CREATED CHASMS BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE. WHICH NO CONCESSIONS CAN BRIDGE."

2. REACTING TO BUTHELIZI'S CHARGE, MINISTER OF JUSTICE JIMMY KRUGER SAID ON AUGUST 29TH: " I FEEL VERY HURT THAT AT THIS STAGE THE POLICE SHOULD FIND THAT PEOPLE ARE ACCUSING THEM OF THINGS THAT ARE COMPLETELY UNSUBSTANTIATED." KRUGER, WHO PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REFRAIN FROM CARRYING THE CHARGE OF POLICE COLLUSIONS UNTIL IT WAS PROVEN BY AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION, ALSO TOOK THE PRESS TO FORE: " ONE WONDERS WHY THIS WAS SAID AT THIS STATE AND WHY THESE UNSUBSTANTIATED THINGS HAVE BEEN GIVEN PUBLICITY." BOWDLER

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